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INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NONE

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PUBLIC UTILITY

Public Utilities Commission of Illinois Believes in Devoting All of Its Time to the Public Interest.

The Battle for Delegates, Committeeships and Other Big Plums Taking Up Attention of Local Statesmen.

Wet and Dry Question Will Cut a Big Figure in Next Year's Battle Throughout the State of Illinois.

Factions in Both the Big Parties Are Making a Hard Fight for the Control of the Managing Committees.

The Public Utilities Commission of Illinois is proving itself to be one of the most useful and industrious public bodies in the United States. Few people have any idea of the extent of its labors or of the time given to the matters of great public importance that come before it by the members of the commission.

The following are the members and officers of the commission:

Commissioners: William L. O'Connell, chairman; Walter A. Shaw, Owen P. Thompson, Richard Yates, Frank H. Funk.

Secretary, Charles N. Hebler. Counsel, Everett Jennings.

It is the only important public body in the United States that is in session every day of the year.

When other public bodies are enjoying a vacation in these dog days the Public Utilities Commission of Illinois is at work.

The following statement of its mid-summer occupation is given in its daily record for this week up to the time of going to press, and the matters considered by it on the days named:

Monday, August 9.—The Aurora, Elgin & Chicago Railroad Company.

In the matter of the application of the Aurora, Elgin & Chicago Railroad Company for an order authorizing the issue and certification of \$95,000 par value of its first and refunding 5 per cent gold bonds and for the sale or use of said bonds as security for loans.

Tuesday, August 10.—Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company and receivers.

In the matter of proposed advances of trackage charges in Chicago switching district in Item No. 89-A of Supplement No. 1 to Tariff 21432-C filed by the C. R. I. & P. Railway Company and receivers.

Wednesday, August 11.—Chicago, Ottawa & Peoria Railway Company vs. C. B. & Q. Railroad Company and C. R. I. & P. Railway Company.

Complaint as to refusal of respondent companies to make an interchange switch track connection at a point known as Seiberling Spur near the city of Ottawa, Ill., for interchange of traffic and for reasonable and joint rates, etc.

Thursday, August 12.—DeKalb County Telephone Company, Sycamore, Ill. Application for authority to increase telephone rates at DeKalb, Sycamore and Malta, Ill.

Tri-City Railway Company et al. of Rock Island vs. John Dietz et al.

Complaint relative to operation of "jitney bus" service in and between certain cities.

The above gives an idea of the daily routine of this important body.

The findings of the Smoke Abatement Committee of the Chicago Association of Commerce are a big blow to electrification in Chicago.

The report takes the position that the elimination of steam locomotives in Chicago is neither necessary nor feasible. In view of the successful electrification of terminals in New York, Paris, Philadelphia, and elsewhere, the conclusions of the committee

came as a distinct surprise to engineers.

Four years' work and \$500,000 contributed by the railroads have been devoted to the compilation of the report. It covers about 1,000 pages and has been heralded as the most exhaustive study of the subject ever made.

It is understood the report was adopted early in June after a desperate struggle had been made by minority members to modify what they regarded as an unwarranted condemnation of electrification. They succeeded only in bringing about certain compromises, which did not, however, affect the general tenor of the conclusions. One of the compromises agreed to by the majority, it is said, is the recommendation that a new commission be appointed by the municipal authorities to make a new study and a new report.

The committee set out to answer three principal questions:

1. Determination as to the necessity of changing the motive power of steam railroads to electricity or other power.

2. The mechanical or technical feasibility of such change.

3. The financial practicability of electrification of Chicago railroads.

Intimations have come from various quarters that the findings on these points were adverse to electrification propaganda, and the complete report bears out the predictions by adducing a mass of statistics to prove that it would be inadvisable to compel the railroads to abandon steam power.

The cost of electrification in Chicago is fixed at close to \$200,000,000, and the impression is conveyed that the fixed charges on this large investment would cripple some of the railroads beyond recovery. In this connection the report seeks to show that the problem in Chicago is much more intricate than in other cities where the terminals have been electrified.

Electrification projects are figured for about 4,501 miles of track comprised in a zone about Chicago, of which 2,819 miles are within the city limits. Some of the items of expense indicated are 1,600 locomotives at \$40,000 apiece and power houses of a capacity of 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 kilowatts, at a cost of \$100 per kilowatt. In addition there is the cost of third rail or overhead methods of conveying power.

It is reported that Joseph E. Bidwell, Sr., is ready to enter the race for congress in the sixth district. This is the old Lorimer section, and politicians assert it has long been the ambition of the elder Bidwell, who was active in the Lorimer following of the past, to go to congress. He moved from the fifth to the sixth congressional district some time ago and now is in Austin territory.

The talk of the Bidwell candidacy confirmed reports that it is the plan of the Thompson-Lowden-Lundin forces to have congressional tickets in most sections in the impending primary battle. Candidates for state offices are bidding for support from this faction, expecting that the Deane forces will have a complete slate in the running when the time comes. The Thompson-Lowden-Lundin people insist they are not going to carry the slate making beyond the head of the ticket in supporting

Colonel Frank O. Lowden for the Republican governorship nomination.

Congressman James McAndrews, Democrat, represents the sixth district now, and was elected with the support of Republican followers in the old Lorimer organization. Republicans insist it is in the wind to elect one of their partisans this time; hence the Bidwell ambition.

Mayor Thompson and Fred Lundin, his political adviser were sanguine as

additional signatures by his return. Mayor Thompson also referred to his candidacy for national committee-man against Roy O. West, personal and political friend of Charles S. Deane.

M. Henry Guerin is being talked of for Attorney-General on the Democratic ticket. His friends are also urging him to be a candidate for the Superior Court bench next year.

Elwood G. Goodman, former Assistant U. S. District Attorney, and now a law partner of Edwin W. Sims, is also being talked of for the Superior Court bench.

Edwyed H. Williams, a law partner of M. Henry Guerin, is being spoken of as secretary to Mayor Thompson. Mr. Williams is the President of the Chicago Alumni of the Delta Chi (Law) Fraternity, and is the editor-in-chief of the Hamiltonian of the Hamilton Club, and also of the Tri-Color of the Illinois Athletic Club.

The big Republican "love feast" at Aurora last Saturday brought out Mayor Thompson, Senator Sherman and Congressman Mann for President. Three presidential booms, six wide open candidates for governor, and a battalion of announcements for places on the state, congressional and legislative tickets marked the opening of the 1916 campaign in Illinois.

What was started as a love feast for Republicans from the ten counties that surround Cook developed rapidly into one of the biggest and most significant political gatherings that has been held in recent years in Illinois.

United States Senator Lawrence Y. Sherman, Congressman James R. Mann, minority leader at Washington, and Mayor William Hale Thompson of Chicago, present in their own respective persons, let it be known through flying squadrons of lieutenants that there is to be a three cornered fight by Illinois men for control of the Illinois delegation to next year's Republican national convention.

The flat announcement was made in behalf of Senator Sherman that a full Sherman ticket for national delegates will be named throughout the state.

The "William Hale Thompson Republican Club," 500 strong, arrived from Chicago in three special trains breaking out the declaration that the mayor is a candidate for president.

DUNNE CREDITED

The Governor of Illinois Deserves Praise for His Efforts to Better Conditions at State Reformatories.

Gossip About the Work of Public Officials and Others in Various Departments of Public Life.

Public Men and Public Conditions as They Are Seen by the People in the Light of Their Performances.

General Information of a Public and Political Nature From All Parts of the State and All Parties In It.

Governor Dunne deserves all the credit for the "honor system" in the Joliet penitentiary, not Ex-Warden Allen.

Those not in touch with the literature on this subject would be surprised to know the number of persons in Illinois who have been studying prison reform and are informed upon all the latest ideas and experiments not only in this country but abroad.

While Illinois prisons, until Governor Dunne's advent, were among the most backward in the country, the

knew or was doing. In New York, Colorado and other states the Joliet experiments were old stories long ago and attention was being given to new phases of the problem by earnest and capable workers.

The striking reforms at the Pontiac reformatory under W. C. Graves has obtained much more attention from well-informed students than the Joliet experiments, and it is known to be the desire of the governor to get a warden for the big prison near Chicago who will measure up with the men who have made real and lasting progress elsewhere with a minimum of self-advertising and a maximum of accomplishment.

Sustain the Legislative Voters' League. It does good work for the people.

A grand jury investigation of the juvenile court resulted in the issuance of a number of subpoenas for officials and employees of the circuit and juvenile courts of Cook county.

That court employees had been summoned to appear before the grand jury was given verification by the state's attorney's office. It was learned, however, that the state's attorney did not initiate the investigation, but that it originated with an individual member of the inquisitorial body, said to be W. H. Dunn, a social worker, who is alleged to have attacked the court on several occasions.

The following are reported to have been subpoenaed:

John W. Rainey, clerk of the circuit court; Joel D. Hunter, chief probation officer; James Whalen, chief clerk to the circuit court clerk; William J. Graham, formerly chief clerk to the circuit court clerk; Thomas J. Hart, minute clerk to Judge Pinckney; John Getachaw, clerk in the office of circuit court clerk; Dr. William Healey of the psychopathic department; Miss Charlotte Jackson, in charge of probation records and assistant to Miss Bartelme; Miss Mary Miller of the girls' branch of the juvenile court.

An attack against Miss Mary Bartelme, who presides as judge over the delinquent girls' branch of the juvenile court, was seen in the grand jury probe by Joel D. Hunter, chief probation officer. Mr. Hunter said Mr. Dunn is the man who has instigated the grand jury inquiry into the affairs of the juvenile court.

"Mr. Dunn is a chronic objector," said Mr. Hunter. "I presume he thinks that it is an illegal practice for Miss Bartelme to hear the cases of delinquent girls and make the recommendations on which Judge Pinckney writes the decrees. Mr. Dunn came to my office four or five days ago and demanded the records in certain cases which have been pending before Miss Bartelme."

"I refused, and he declared he would summon me to bring the records before the grand jurors. I told him I would be glad to submit to the grand jury anything that body desired to see."

"Now I suppose he objects to Miss Bartelme presiding in the delinquent girls' branch. You see we permit no persons in the room except those whose presence is necessary, such as parents and witnesses. And it is the records of eight or ten such cases—cases of revolting character—which I

have been summoned to take before the grand jury."

The effort to create "clawes" in Chicago is having its effect.

Denying children a common school education in order that millions may be wasted on teaching boys trades is having its effect.

Teachers in the common schools must have their salaries reduced or the schools must be closed.

Fifty-five carpenters were graduated from the \$2,000,000 Lane "Tech" this year.

In order to do this thousands of poor little children will have to go without the rudiments of an education. The effort to create classes in Chicago is being carried too far.

Between civil service, life pensions for job holders, and the teaching of trades at public expense, it is not hard to see the finish.

One of the sweetest things to the mind of an office holding aristocrat, is the ease with which, under Civil Service rules, he can take an indefinite leave of absence, hold other jobs in the meantime and, when he loses them come back to the city hall pay roll.

The city hall "lifers" from the "morals squad" to the "industrial psychopaths" are reported to be in arms against the new mayor.

His motto of common sense and hard work does not suit them.

Perhaps if he looked up the records of a few thousand of this pension hunting, office holding aristocracy he could hand them a court proof bounce and give some men, who are anxious to work, jobs.

The Kjellander ordinance fixing taxi rate is hard on the public. It gives everything to the taxi and leaves little for the customer. Here are the new Kjellander rates as compared with the old ones:

	Now.	Old.
First half mile or fraction thereof, one person.....	\$.40	\$.50
Each additional quarter mile10	.10
Each additional person for entire journey15	.20
Each four minutes of waiting10	.10
Two passenger cab, per hour	2.50	3.00

The people are tired of this sort of aldermanic bunk. They want a reduction in taxi rates that amounts to something.

The battle of 1916 is on! The dates are all set for the big fight.

The presidential primary—with the direct selection of delegates from each district, together with eight delegates at large to be chosen from the entire state—will be held on April 11. The primary for the nomination of state officers, congressmen, members of the legislature, and county offices will be held on September 13, the first Wednesday after the second Tuesday.

Many Chicagoans would like to see Nelson N. Lampert on the School Board.



WILLIAM L. O'CONNELL.
Chairman Public Utilities Commission.

a result of the Lowden Club rally Tuesday night in the Hotel Sherman when a total of 218,859 names were counted upon Lowden petitions urging the colonel to get in the governorship nomination free-for-all. Mayor Thompson in a speech and Mr. Lundin in an interview declared that they have no doubt that Colonel Lowden will stay in the race. The mayor let it be known he will go to the Thousand Islands Saturday to meet Colonel Lowden. He said he expected the petition workers would have 100,000

The mayor made a speech. He pleaded for "neutrality" in connection with the European war. His critics had been saying his campaign was to be founded on an appeal to pro-Germans. He denied this, saying that he was not pro-German, but "for humanity."

Congressman Mann, through former United States District Attorney Edwin W. Sims, let it be known the minority leader's name in every likelihood will be submitted to the Illinois presidential primaries next April.

late Professor Charles Henderson of the University of Illinois was perhaps the best authority in the country on this subject, and Professor Robert Gault of Northwestern University is equally well known in the realm of criminology.

Students such as these know that the "honor system" did not have its birth at Joliet and will not die with the resignation of Edmund N. Allen as warden. At the annual congress of prison administrators Mr. Allen never attracted attention for what he